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ABSTRACT

This report presents information relating to ethnic distributions of students at Los Angeles City College (LACC). Data about ethnic background, units completed at all colleges, part-time or full-time status, day or evening status, sex, and college major was requested on an optional card provided at the time of registration. In spring 1975, 10,854 students, 50.5 percent of the total census week enrollment, completed the card. Tables indicate ethnic distributions by the various categories of data elicited on the card, and comparative ethnic distributions of LACC students for the past ten years. Approximately one-third of all current LACC students are Black, one-third are Caucasian, and one-third are other minorities. Over the past ten years the total ethnic minority enrollment has risen from about 50 percent to about 65 percent. Part-time students show a smaller percentage of Blacks (26 percent) than full-time students (38 percent). The highest percentages of minorities major in Public Affairs, Commerce, Engineering, Education, Computer Science, and Home Economics. (Author/DC)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF L.A.C.C. STUDENTS"

Research Study #75-9

Ben K. Gold
Research Office
May, 1975

JC 750 296

"ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF L.A.C.C. STUDENTS"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Applications for Federal grants and summary reports detailing use of grant funds require information relative to ethnic background of students. In order to obtain estimates of Los Angeles City College student ethnic distribution, the student has for the past two years been asked to fill out a card (copy appended) at the time of registration indicating ethnic background and certain other characteristics. Identification on the card is not required, and its completion is voluntary.

Recently, the District Data Processing Center furnished L.A.C.C. a detailed printout of the information provided on these cards by Spring, 1975 registrants. The purpose of this study is to summarize that information and to compare with previous statistics, as available.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

The card described above asks the student to indicate his "General Major," a choice of 23 categories taken from the major headings listed in the Classification of Instructional Disciplines (CID) issued by the Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges. 47 ethnic distribution tables were produced by Data Processing, two (male and female) for each of the 23 categories and a summary total. Each table lists numbers of students in the indicated ethnic categories according to their responses to the other questions asked, viz., full-time - part-time status, day-evening, and number of units completed. These printouts, together with data from previous years available in the Research Office, were analyzed as described in the next section.

FINDINGS

10,854 students completed the survey card, 50.5% of the total census week enrollment of 21,492. Percents indicated in the tables are based on the number responding, and estimated numbers of students are obtained by applying these percents to the total census week enrollment.

Table 1 indicates Spring, 1975 ethnic distribution for all students and by selected categories. Table 2 indicates Spring, 1975 ethnic distribution according to general major, and also indicates estimated total number of students in each major and also the percent who are male. Table 3 indicates, for a measure of the representativeness of the sample, percents of the total student enrollment at census week. Table 4 and Figure 1 indicates available estimates of ethnic distributions over the past ten years.

TABLE 1 - Spring 1975 Ethnic Distributions of L.A.C.C. Students: by selected categories (estimates in percent)

	American Indian	Black Negro	Mexican American	Oriental (Asian)	Puerto Rican	American Samoan	Other Caucasian	Other Non-Cauc.	Census Week Enrollments
All students	0.6	32.3	14.8	15.1	0.6	0.2	34.6	1.7	21,492
Full-time	0.7	38.5	15.2	13.8	0.6	0.2	29.4	1.6	7,440
Part-time	0.5	26.1	14.4	16.5	0.7	0.2	39.8	1.8	14,052
Day	0.6	33.4	15.0	14.7	0.5	0.2	33.9	1.6	13,304
Evening	0.5	30.4	14.6	15.9	0.8	0.2	36.9	1.8	8,188
UC* < 30	0.7	36.6	16.1	14.1	0.6	0.2	29.6	1.9	14,185
30 ≤ UC<60	0.4	29.6	14.9	14.8	0.6	0.1	38.4	1.3	5,235
UC ≥ 60	0.5	15.3	7.4	21.8	0.4	0.1	53.0	1.5	2.072
Male	0.6	31.7	16.4	15.9	0.8	0.2	32.6	1.2	10,418
Female	0.6	33.0	13.3	14.4	0.4	0.2	36.6	1.6	11,074

* units completed

TABLE 2 - Spring 1975 Ethnic Distribution of L.A.C.C. Students: by stated General Majors (estimates in percent)

General Major	American Indian	Black Negro	Mexican-American	Oriental (Asian)	Puerto Rican	American Samoan	Other Caucasian	Other Non-Cauc.	Est. No. of Studs	% of Total	% Male
Agri. & Nat.Res.	0.0	19.4	8.3	22.2	2.8	0.0	47.2	0.0	70	0.3	53.2
Arch. & Env.Des.	0.0	24.1	22.0	22.7	0.8	0.0	28.4	2.1	160	1.4	78.7
Biol. Science	0.0	25.5	10.1	25.2	0.0	0.0	37.3	2.0	590	2.7	59.1
Bus. & Mgmt.	0.5	31.7	15.3	21.2	0.7	0.1	28.9	1.6	3080	14.2	57.3
Communications	0.0	37.0	17.9	4.0	0.9	0.0	39.7	0.4	410	1.9	78.1
Computer Science	1.4	23.6	15.7	31.0	0.0	0.5	25.9	1.8	500	2.3	76.8
Education	0.7	50.0	16.6	7.2	0.2	0.0	23.5	1.8	1040	4.8	22.6
Engineering	0.7	21.6	16.1	37.4	1.1	0.4	20.9	1.8	670	3.1	96.3
Fine & App. Art	0.8	26.1	13.7	8.2	0.6	0.2	49.2	1.1	1600	7.4	56.1
Foreign Languages	0.0	12.7	15.9	10.1	0.5	0.5	58.2	2.1	240	1.1	43.1
Health Prof.	0.9	28.5	12.2	15.9	0.4	0.2	40.7	1.3	1980	9.2	30.7
Home Economics	0.0	47.5	4.0	15.8	3.0	0.0	27.7	2.0	220	1.0	22.8
Law	0.0	42.3	15.1	5.0	0.7	0.7	35.5	0.7	870	4.0	56.5
Letters	0.0	18.5	7.7	10.8	0.0	0.0	60.0	3.1	90	0.4	44.6
Library Sci.	0.0	33.3	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	8.3	30	0.1	25.0
Mathematics	0.0	23.5	16.5	27.1	0.0	1.2	31.8	0.0	180	0.8	69.4
Physical Sci.	0.6	25.2	13.2	22.0	0.0	0.0	37.7	1.3	310	1.4	62.3
Psychology	1.2	29.9	17.0	5.6	1.2	0.0	43.4	1.9	910	4.2	37.6
Pub. Affairs	0.0	48.1	20.3	12.7	1.3	0.0	16.5	1.3	200	0.9	54.4
Soc.Science	0.5	37.5	15.0	11.5	0.5	0.0	32.8	2.1	780	3.6	42.0
Commerce	0.0	8.9	21.4	39.3	1.8	0.0	19.6	8.9	140	0.6	50.0
Interd.Stds.	0.7	35.7	15.2	14.7	0.6	0.2	31.0	1.9	7390	34.3	48.0
Apprenticeship	0.0	5.6	22.2	27.8	0.0	0.0	44.4	0.0	30	0.1	61.1
TOTAL	0.6	32.3	14.8	15.1	0.6	0.2	34.6	1.7	21490	100.0	50.0

TABLE 3 - Comparison of Sample and Population (in percents)

	Population (N= 21492)	Sample (N = 10841)
Full-time	34.6	49.8
Part-time	65.4	50.2
Day	61.9	63.6
Evening	38.1	36.4
Units completed < 30	66.0	61.2
$30 \leq$ Units completed < 60	24.4	27.6
Units completed ≥ 60	9.6	11.1
Males	48.5	50.0
Females	51.5	50.0

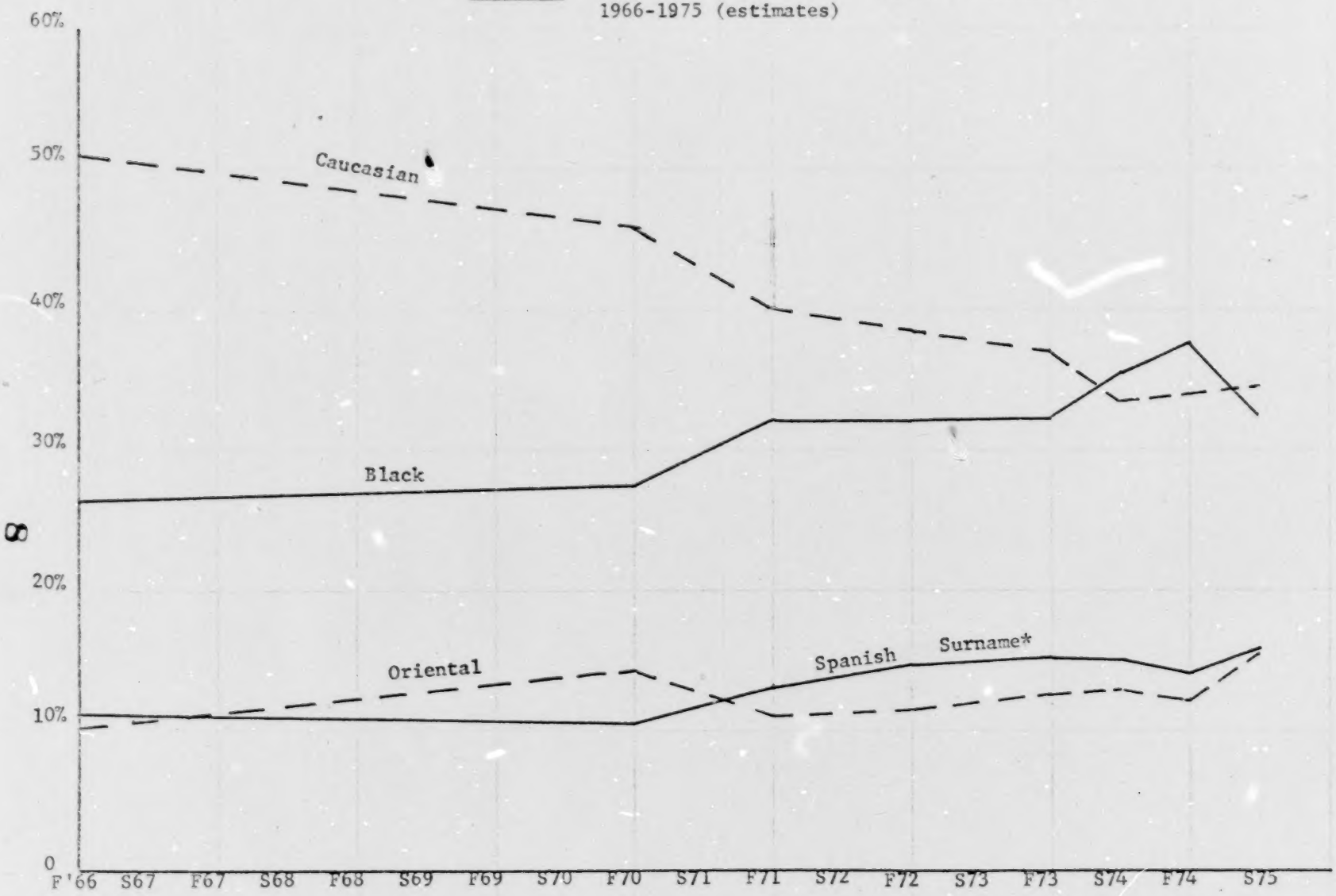
Sample taken at registration
Population figures at census week

TABLE 4 - Ethnic Distribution of L.A.C.C. Students, 1966-75 (estimates as available in percent)

	American Indian	Black Negro	Oriental (Asian)	Other Non-White	Spanish* Surname	Other White
Spring, 1975	0.6	32.3	15.1	1.9	15.4	34.6
Fall, 1974	0.6	37.5	12.2	1.9	13.9	34.0
Spring, 1974	0.9	35.7	12.9	1.9	15.0	33.6
Fall, 1973	0.6	32.3	12.6	2.1	15.4	37.0
Fall, 1972	0.6	32.0	11.6	2.8	14.5	38.5
Fall, 1971	1.0	32.0	11.0	3.0	13.0	40.0
Fall, 1970	1.3	27.6	14.5	---	10.8	45.8
Fall, 1966	0.2	26.6	10.1	0.8	11.3	51.0

* including Mexican-American and Puerto Rican

FIGURE 1 - Ethnic Distribution of L.A.C.C. Students, 1966-1975 (estimates)



* includes Mexican-American & Puerto Rican

CONCLUSIONS

This study presents some information relating to ethnic distributions at L.A.C.C. Such information is difficult to obtain with precision inasmuch as a Board rule prevents indicating a student's ethnic background on his record. However, a sample of over 10,000 respondents to a card survey showed differences of less than 2% in sex and day/evening status, thus indicating that the resulting ethnic distribution has a high probability of being representative. Differences between sample and population in full-time and part-time status are not unexpected since the sample was taken at registration and population figures are at census week.

Numbers of students indicating various general majors must be considered as broad estimates only. Much evidence exists to indicate that there are often wide discrepancies between a stated major and the courses in which a student enrolls, and the particular set of broad majors given with only a brief title is understandably confusing (e.g., does a Secretarial Science major indicate Business and Management or Commerce? -- the only two possibly appropriate choices).

Following are some observations on the data, subject to the limitations indicated above:

(1) Approximately one-third of current L.A.C.C. students are Black, one-third Caucasian, and one-third other minorities. The latter third consists almost entirely of Mexican-Americans and Orientals in about equal numbers.

(2) Over the past ten years the total ethnic minority has risen from about 50% to about 65%, with each minority group (Blacks, Mexican-Americans and Orientals) showing an increase over the period.

(3) Part-time students show a smaller percentage of Blacks (26%) than full-time students (38%). Ethnic differences between males and females are small as are differences between day and evening students. Percentages of minority ethnic seems to be inversely related to number of units completed.

CONCLUSIONS (continued)

(4) Largest general major indicated was Interdisciplinary Studies (34%). Since there was no way to indicate an undecided or undeclared major, this category may include these. Of the more specific majors, most popular was Business and Management, followed by Health Professions, and Fine and Applied Arts.

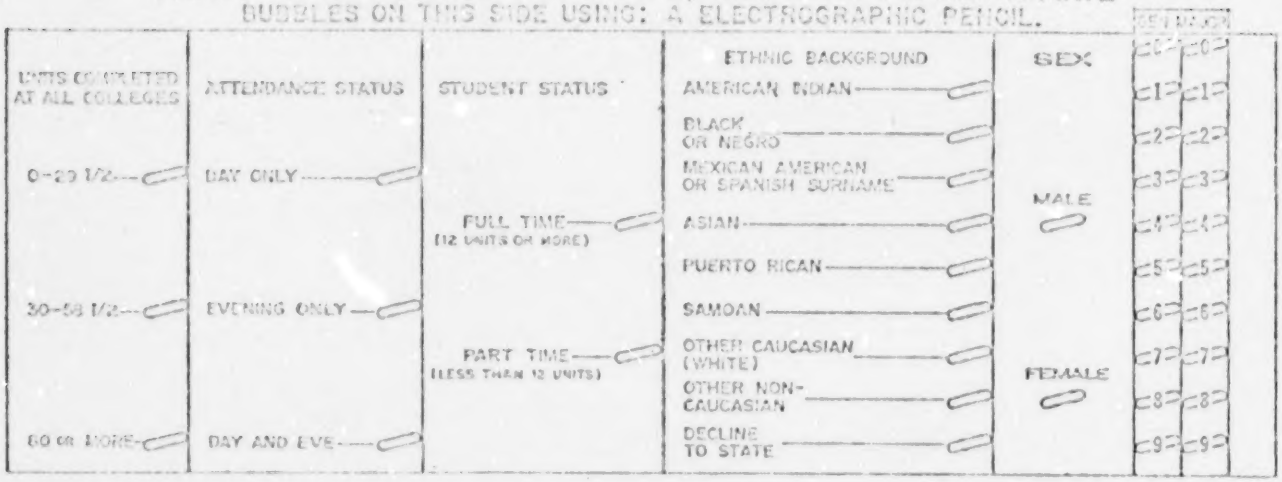
(5) Majors in which males outnumbered females by 2 to 1 or more included Architecture and Environmental Design, Communications, Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. The reverse is true for Education, Health Professions, Home Economics, and Library Science.

(6) Highest percentages of minorities were in Public Affairs, Commerce, Engineering, Education, Computer Science, and Home Ecomonics. Blacks seemed particularly attracted to Education, Public Affairs, and Home Economics. Orientals were particularly attracted to Commerce, Engineering, and Computer Science. Variation among majors was less for Mexican-Americans than the other three largest ethnic groups (Blacks, Caucasians, Orientals).

* * * * * * * *

GENERAL INFORMATION SURVEY (SIDE 2)

PLEASE READ OTHER SIDE OF THIS CARD, THEN MARK THE APPROPRIATE BUBBLES ON THIS SIDE USING: A ELECTROGRAPHIC PENCIL.



GENERAL INFORMATION SURVEY

SP 75 ,

This information does not become part of your records, but is of great value to the college when we apply for State and Federal Grants to provide Student Financial Aids and other College Activities.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Select the number of the GENERAL MAJOR from the list which most applies to you. Mark the appropriate bubbles on the other side of this card in the area labeled GEN MAJOR. (OVER)

GENERAL MAJOR LIST

01 - AGRI & NAT RES	10 - FINE & APPL ARTS	19 - PHYSICAL SCIENCE
02 - ARCH & ENV DESIGN	11 - FOREIGN LANGUAGE	20 - PSYCHOLOGY
04 - BIOL SCIENCE	12 - HEALTH PROFESSION	21 - PUBLIC AFFAIRS
05 - BUS & MGNT	13 - HOME ECONOMICS	22 - SOCIAL SCIENCE
06 - COMMUNICATIONS	14 - LAW	30 - COMMERCE
07 - COMPUTER SCIENCE	15 - LETTERS	49 - INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
08 - EDUCATION	16 - LIBRARY SCIENCE	53 - APPRENTICESHIP
09 - ENGINEERING	17 - MATHEMATICS	

Your signature is optional